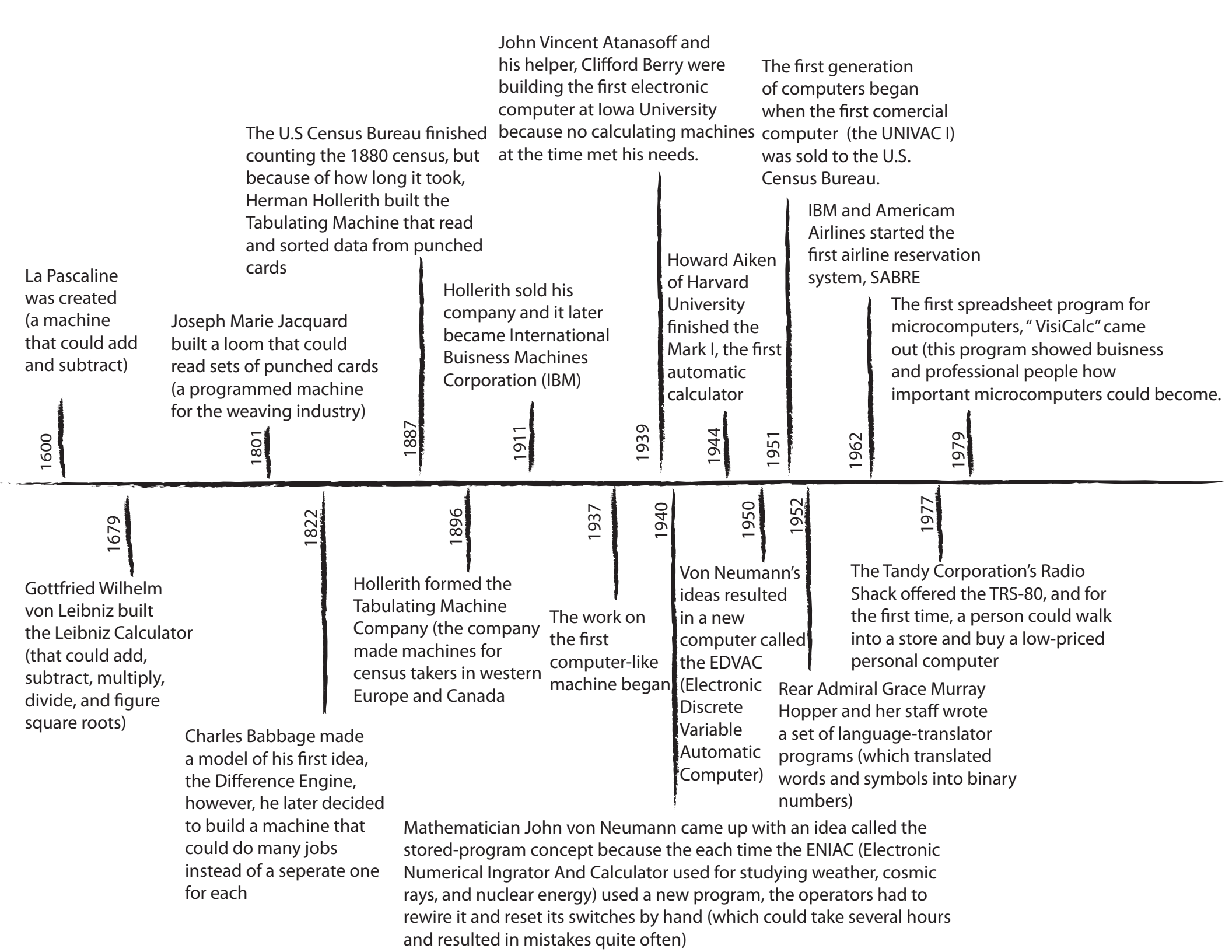
1600
La Pascaline was created (a machine that could add and subtract)
1679
Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz built the Leibniz Calculator (that could add, subtract, multiply, divide, and figure square roots)
1801
Joseph Marie Jacquard built a loom that could read sets of punched cards (a programmed machine for the weaving industry)
1822
Charles Babbage made a model of his first idea, the Difference Engine, however, he later decided to build a machine that could do many jobs instead of a seperate one for each
1887
The U.S Census Bureau finished counting the 1880 census, but because of how long it took, Herman Hollerith built the Tabulating Machine that read and sorted data from punched cards
1896
Hollerith formed the Tabulating Machine Company (the company made machines for census takers in western Europe and Canada
1911
Hollerith sold his company and it later became International Buisness Machines Corporation (IBM)
1937
The work on the first computer-like machine began
1939
John Vincent Atanasoff and his helper, Clifford Berry were building the first electronic computer at Iowa University because no calculating machines at the time met his needs.
1940
Mathematician John von Neumann came up with an idea called the stored-program concept because the each time the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Ingrator And Calculator used for studying weather, cosmic rays, and nuclear energy) used a new program, the operators had to rewire it and reset its switches by hand (which could take several hours and resulted in mistakes quite often)
1944
Howard Aiken of Harvard University finished the Mark I, the first automatic calculator
1950
Von Neumann's ideas resulted in a new computer called the EDVAC (Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer)
1951
The first generation of computers began when the first comercial computer (the UNIVAC I) was sold to the U.S. Census Bureau.
1952
Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper and her staff wrote a set of language-translator programs (which translated words and symbols into binary numbers)
1962
IBM and Americam Airlines started the first airline reservation system, SABRE
1977
The first spreadsheet program for microcomputers, " VisiCalc" came out (this program showed buisness and professional people how important microcomputers could become.
1979
The Tandy Corporation's Radio Shack offered the TRS-80, and for the first time, a person could walk into a store and buy a low-priced personal computer